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A DEVICE FOR PREVENTING AXIAL MOVEMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND PRIOR ART

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The present invention generally relates to a device for preventing axial movement of any elongated member applied through the skin of a mammal at a puncturing position. Accordingly, the purpose of such a device is to keep said elongated member applied through the skin of a mammal for different reasons. Such an elongated member is mostly stiff and sharp, so that it may be pearced through the skin of said mammal, normally a human being, but it may also be flexible, such as a catheter, which has been pearced through the skin by using a cannula needle thereafter retracted.

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More specifically, the invention relates to such a device comprising a plaster designed to cover the surface around the puncturing position and having at least an adhesive layer for securing it to the skin as well as an opening through the layer(-s) thereof for the passage of said elongated member therethrough. The plaster is used for securing the needle on the skin. By this the patient also has a visible security against the needle falling out.

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A device of this type may for instance be used for preventing axial movement of a cannula needle when carrying out hemo-dialysis, in which the blood of a patient suffering from impaired kidney function is conducted from a patient blood vessel to a dialysis machine and is returned to the patient after treatment. In such a case two cannula needles may be used, one for draining

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blood from the patient and the other for returning the treated blood thereto. It is in this case of vital importance that a said device is extremely reliable, since it would of course be a catastrophe if the cannula needle returning the blood to the patient
5 would move out of the correct position, so that blood would only be drained from the body of the patient without being returned. However, in this case also a single needle may be used. When a single needle is used, the blood is received from the patient and transferred back to the patient through the same needle. The
10 needle is, in its turn, connected to a tube that is split up into two parts, one for venous blood and one for arterial blood.

Devices of this type are disclosed in for example DE 3105187, DE 19508073 and US 5087248. These devices use the material
15 of the plaster for keeping the cannula needle, catheter or the like in position. However, this material may be stretched or partially torn apart would the patient move, so that there is a risk that the elongated member moves axially. These devices also use an adhesive to keep the elongated member in place by se-
20 curing wings attached to the elongated member to the skin, so that it is important that this adhesive binds strongly enough to said wings. In the case of a cannula needle, this is very thin, so it is necessary to apply an adhesive tape or the like on wings provided extra therefor at a remarkable distance from the needle
25 portions penetrating the skin.

A device according to the preamble of appended claim 1 is known through WO 97/21459. The clamping means used for
30 keeping the needle in place is rather complicated to the construction and is not able to hold the needle as firm as desired in some situations.

Furthermore, it may be mentioned that US 6231548 and US 5084026 disclose devices of another type differing from the
35 present invention by the fact that the plaster thereof is not penetrated by the elongated member, so that the plaster does

not cover the surface around the puncturing position of the elongated member. A plaster is there instead used to be a carrier for other means holding the elongated member in place. These devices are rather complex, secure the elongated member at a
5 considerable distance from the puncturing position and do not use the plaster to cover the surface around the puncturing position.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The object of the present invention is to provide a device of the type defined in the preamble of appended claim 1 improving the operation reliability and accuracy with respect to such devices already known.

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This object is according to the invention obtained by providing such a device with a clamping means being thin and substantially flat and provided with a lateral opening for laterally introducing a said elongated member between clamping portions
20 thereof, and said clamping means including parts of substantially rigid material provided with clamping portions adapted to bear against a said elongated member.

It is by this construction of the clamping means possible to
25 clamp close to the penetration point of the elongated member thereby minimizing any lever action thereon, so that the elongated member, such as a needle, may be held very firmly and reliably against axial movement thereof without the use of any adhesive strips, glue or the like. It is also comfortable to the pa-
30 tient if the device can be kept as thin as possible.

"Clamp" should be interpreted as bearing on the elongated member under tension from at least two different directions through members, which would move closer to each other would
35 not the elongated member be located therebetween. This is quite different than having an adhesive tape or a plaster portion

secured to the elongated member therearound while only relying on the adhesive for preventing said axial movement of the elongated member.

5 According to an embodiment of the present invention said clamping means is of (a) material(-s) being substantially more rigid than the material(-s) forming the plaster, which facilitates the obtention of the clamping function thereof.

10 According to another embodiment of the invention surfaces through which the clamping portions are adapted to bear against a said elongated member are made of a substantially rigid material. This enables said clamping portions to efficiently engage circumferential surfaces of the elongated member, such as a
15 cannula needle for firmly holding this elongated member in place through the clamping action.

According to another embodiment of the present invention said clamping means has clamping portions with sharp gripping
20 edges adapted to bear against a said elongated member clamped thereby. This further increases the reliability of the gripping action of the clamping means.

The elongated member may for example be made of metal.
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According to another embodiment of the present invention said plaster is provided with a pocket formed between two adjacent layers thereof and housing said clamping means, so that the clamping means will be an integral part of the plaster.

30 According to another embodiment of the present invention said clamping means is transferable between an inactive state allowing a said elongated member to be introduced between clamping portions thereof and an active state in which said
35 clamping portions bear under tension against a said elongated member. This means that the elongated member may without

any problems be introduced into the clamping means, but this may nevertheless efficiently clamp the elongated member when desired by transferring the clamping means to said active state.

5 According to another embodiment of the present invention constituting a further development of the embodiment last mentioned at least said clamping portions of said clamping means are made of a material having a high coefficient of thermal expansion in the region around the body temperature of a mammal
10 for which the device is intended to be used such as to be influenced by the temperature when applied together with a plaster on the skin of a said mammal for being transferred from said inactive to said active state through the temperature rise caused through heat transfer from the body of said mammal. This way of
15 realising the clamping means is very simple and results at the same time in a reliable function thereof. In this case at least said clamping portions of said clamping means may be made of a so-called memory metal.

20 According to another embodiment of the present invention said clamping means comprises at least one spring member connected to said clamping portions for urging them towards each other. One or more spring members may in this way be used for obtaining a reliable clamping action of the clamping means.
25 "Spring member" is here to be interpreted very broadly and comprises all types of members acting as a spring by trying to lower the potential energy thereof by changing shape.

According to another embodiment of the present invention associated with the embodiment last mentioned the device comprises
30 a blocking member adapted to hold the clamping portions apart in said inactive state for allowing introduction of a said elongated member therebetween and when released allowing said spring member to transfer the clamping means to the active
35 state, so that such a spring member may be used to efficiently

clamp an elongated member without making it difficult to introduce the elongated member into the clamping means.

5 According to another embodiment of the present invention the device comprises an elongated flexible, preferably adjustable, such as by being elastic, band-like member secured to the plaster and adapted to be applied around a body part of a mammal on which a said puncturing position has been applied for assisting the adhesive layer of the plaster in holding the
10 plaster secured around the puncturing position, so that the holding of the plaster and by that the clamping means in place is further improved.

15 Further features of the present invention appear from the following description and the other dependent claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 With reference to the appended drawings, below follows a specific description of various embodiments of the present invention cited as examples.

In the drawings:

25 Fig 1 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a typical use of a device according to the present invention,

Fig 2 is a partially sectioned perspective view illustrating the general construction of a device according to the present invention,
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Fig 3 schematically illustrates a clamping means according to an embodiment of the present invention,

35 Fig 4 schematically illustrates a clamping means according to another embodiment of the present invention, and

Fig 5-7. schematically illustrate clamping means including at least one spring member according to other embodiments of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Fig 1 schematically illustrates the use of a device according to the present invention for preventing axial movement of an elongated member in the form of a cannula needle 1 applied through the skin of an arm of a human for draining blood from a vein or supplying a fluid, preferably blood, but possibly also for instance anaesthetic thereinto. It is stressed that the most critical thing is to return blood to the patient. The cannula needle is passing through a plaster 2 being secured to the skin by an adhesive layer thereon and further secured to the arm of a patient by a band 3 secured to the plaster and applied around the arm while forming a loop through using for instance a hook- and loop-fastener. The band 3 is preferably adjustable, possibly by being elastic for adapting it to the body of the patient and efficiently assisting the adhesive layer of the plaster in holding the plaster in place without causing inconveniences to the patient. The cannula needle 1 is in fact firstly put in place and thereafter the plaster 2 is arranged over the puncturing position.

Fig 2 illustrates the principal construction of a device according to the present invention. The plaster 2 has an adhesive layer 4 for securing it to the skin, a carrier layer 5 on top thereon and an uppermost force absorbing coating layer 6, preferably made of conventional plaster fabric material. A pocket 7 is formed between the carrier layer and the coating layer 6 for housing a clamping means 8 made of a material being substantially more rigid than the material forming the plaster. The material of the clamping means may for instance be metal or hard plastic. Dif-

ferent parts of the clamping means may also be made of different materials.

5 The plaster has a lateral slot 9 and the clamping means has a lateral slot 10 for introducing an elongated member into the opening of the plaster and between clamping portions 11, 12 of the clamping means, respectively. Accordingly, the elongated member is firstly applied through the skin at a puncturing position, so that this puncturing position is perfectly visible when
10 applying the elongated member, such as a cannula needle. The plaster is then moved laterally with respect to the elongated member so that this is introduced into the slots 9 and 10 to the position shown in Fig 2, whereupon the adhesive layer of the plaster is pressed against the surface of the skin surrounding
15 the puncturing position. If the elongated member is not applied perpendicularly to the skin surface the plaster is applied with the slots 9, 10 so that the inclined elongated member when seen in a direction perpendicular to the plaster surface will extend in the direction of the slots. This means that the clamping portions
20 forming opposite surfaces of the slot 10 of the clamping means will not try to pivot the elongated member when clamping it. Thus, the elongated member is clamped through parts of rigid material provided with clamping portions 11, 12 adapted to bear against the elongated member and acting thereupon substantially in a plane in parallel with the surface of the skin upon
25 which the plaster is arranged. Furthermore, the elongated member is intended to extend through the clamping means between the clamping portions thereof while making a large angle with the plaster, preferably extending substantially perpendicularly
30 thereto.

Fig 3 and fig 4 illustrate two possible constructions of the clamping means. These are thin and disc-like members made of a memory metal having a high coefficient of thermal expansion
35 in the region around the body temperature of a mammal, mostly a human, for which the device is intended to be used such as to

be influenced by the temperature when applied together with the plaster on the skin of a said mammal for being transferred from an inactive state shown for the embodiment in fig 3 allowing the introduction of an elongated member between the clamping portions 11, 12 or claws thereof to an active state, in which the clamping portions clamp around an elongated member, as shown for the embodiment according to fig 4, through the temperature rise caused through heat transfer from the body of the human.

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Fig 5 illustrates how the clamping means may comprise a spring member 13 connected to the clamping portions 11, 12 for urging them towards each other. It is also schematically illustrated through dashed lines how the device may comprise a blocking member 14 adapted to hold the clamping portions apart in an inactive state of the clamping means for allowing introduction of an elongated member therebetween and when released, here displaced, allowing the spring member 13 to transfer the clamping means to the active state while urging the clamping portions 11, 12 towards each other. This blocking member has preferably a reversable function, e.g. it is then possible to re-enter the blocking member in order to be able to release the needle from its clamp position.

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Fig 6 illustrates a clamping means having three rings 15-17 with outer sharp edges pressed against each other through a spring band 18 having an opening 19, through which an elongated member may be introduced laterally between the rings while pressing them apart. Once the elongated member is introduced between the rings the spring band 18 will urge the clamping portions formed by the outer ring surfaces with the edges towards each other for firmly clamping the elongated member.

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Fig 7 illustrates a further possible embodiment of a clamping means to be secured to a plaster in a device according to the present invention. This clamping means has two plates 20, 21

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with lateral slots 22, 23 for being laterally moved into engagement with an elongated member. Spring members 24, 25 are associated with the respective plate for trying to move them apart while clamping an elongated member introduced into the slots
5 22, 23 through bottom surfaces 26, 27 thereof. In this case a blocking member in the form of for instance a thread (not shown) to be cut off for the transfer from the inactive to the active state of the clamping means may be applied. This embodiment may be slightly modified for using compressive forces instead of tension forces. The bottom surfaces would then be oppositely directed and the spring members 24, 25 replaced by
10 compressive springs or other compressive means pressing the plates towards each other.

15 The invention is of course not in any way restricted to the embodiments disclosed but may be varied and modified within the scope of the appended claims.

The elongated member may be provided with intended irregularities over a portion thereof for improving the grip of the
20 clamping means on the elongated member.